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CIA 36334-b

Copy No. 62

IAC-D-80

8 January 1954

INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Biological Warfare Intelligence in Support of
Research and Development Planning

1. For the information and background of the IAC there is attached (Tab A) a 1952 interchange of correspondence between the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence on this subject. It will be noted that there is included therein a list of the actions which the agencies then undertook to strengthen both collection and research in this field.
2. The Director of Central Intelligence has recently received a letter (Tab B) from the Department of Defense which requests a review of the progress made since the earlier correspondence and which indicates that such review would be most helpful to the Department in the planning of biological warfare research and development programs.
3. It would appear to be a mutual responsibility of the intelligence agencies concerned to see that, in response to its planning needs, the Department of Defense is provided with intelligence estimates on BW capabilities comprehensive of both basic science and technology, and assessments of Soviet intentions to wage biological warfare.
4. An estimate of BW capabilities and intentions to develop such capabilities would appear to be handled most appropriately by the SEC. An estimate of intentions to employ BW seems more in the nature of a national intelligence estimate. Although previous estimates (i.e., NIE-18 and 31) dealt in part with the latter question, it now appears advisable to prepare an estimate which focuses on Soviet intentions to employ BW.

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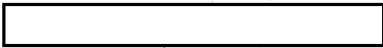
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5. Accordingly, it is recommended (a) that the SEC prepare, by 15 March 1954, an estimate of Soviet capabilities and intentions to develop BW, the estimate to be comprehensive of both basic science and technology; (b) that, upon completion of 5(a) above, the Board of National Estimates confer with the representatives of the IAC as to the feasibility of writing an NIE on the subject of Soviet intentions to employ BW or treating the subject in estimates now scheduled for production in the last quarter of 1954; and (c) that the IAC concur in the draft letter from the DCI to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Development) (Tab C).

6. In order that the deficiencies in our BW intelligence are determined and appropriate further action is taken to improve BW intelligence, it is further recommended that the SEC determine the critical deficiencies in BW intelligence and recommend to the IAC means for eliminating them.

7. This matter will be considered by the IAC at an early meeting.


Secretary

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TAB A to IAC-D-80
8 January 1954

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24 September 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense

SUBJECT: Biological Warfare Intelligence

1. This is an interim report in response to your memorandum of 16 August on the inadequacy of intelligence regarding Soviet Biological Warfare.

2. We are needling the collection activities that are subject to our control through the Inter-Agency Priorities Committee. We are also seeking a higher priority for this type of information from USCIB. Any improvement in research activities will have to be done in the Department of Defense, which has the primary responsibility for such activities. We will supplement this by stepping up our research activities in the basic sciences and this may afford some help. We are also bringing to the attention of the IAC the noted deficiencies in this field, and are asking everybody to cooperate in an effort to improve both collection and research activities. We will follow through on this to the best of our ability.

3. There is, however, one difficulty--our total abilities are limited, and if higher priority in covert collection in this field is decided upon, it will compete with other requirements now established by the Department of Defense as vital to early warning responsibilities. Within this limitation we will do the very best we can and will give you a more complete report in about a month.

/signed/

WALTER B. SMITH
Director

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(TS-80202A) TAB A to IAC-D-80
8 January 1954

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25 October 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense

SUBJECT: Biological Warfare Intelligence

1. This report is forwarded in accordance with the undertaking contained in my memorandum of 24 September, relating to intelligence concerning Soviet biological warfare (BW) capabilities and intentions.

2. The following actions have been taken with respect to collection of BW intelligence:

a. Both the Inter-Agency Priorities Committee and the Intelligence Advisory Committee have considered the BW problem. The Defense agencies do not desire to raise the priority for covert collection of BW intelligence at this time since it would compete with other collection requirements now established by the Department of Defense as vital to early warning responsibilities.

b. USCIB for the first time has accepted detailed priority requirements on BW for exploitation by AFSA. This action should improve both the quantity and quality of information.

c. The State Department has accepted detailed requirements calling for the assignment of a high priority to reporting in the fields of agronomy and veterinary medicine which have a direct bearing on BW.

d. Discussions are taking place with the State Department on the possible assignment to Embassy staffs of

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scientific specialists under the Science Attache Program.



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3. CIA is also stepping up its program for research in related basic sciences; notably, increased man-hours have been allocated to our program of systematic analysis of special intelligence pertaining to institutions and areas suspected of having BW potential.

4.



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/and the recently established Scientific Estimates Committee is taking continuing cognizance of the BW problem. In a few months it is planned to review the adequacy of these mechanisms for coordinating CIA's research activities in the basic sciences and those of the Service intelligence agencies in their area of primary responsibility.

5. In spite of the inherent difficulties of determining BW activities, we will pursue this problem aggressively and provide maximum support to the security organizations concerned with defense against BW.

/signed/

WALTER B. SMITH
Director

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D - R - A - F - TTab C to
IAC-D-80
8 January 1954MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Research and Development)SUBJECT: Requirement for Intelligence Information
on Soviet Activities in Biological Warfare
Research, Development and Production

1. In your memorandum of 5 November 1953 (subject as above) you suggest a review of the progress made on biological warfare intelligence as a result of action which was taken by General Smith, as discussed in his memorandum of 25 October 1952. I assure you that the IAC agencies are continuing their efforts to improve intelligence in this critical field.

2. Rather than detailing the administrative steps we have been, and are, taking to improve BW intelligence, may I suggest that your needs in the planning of biological warfare research and development programs would appear to be more directly served by an intelligence estimate of Soviet biological warfare capabilities and intentions, with as much supporting detail as is available.

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3. Accordingly, in order to be as helpful as possible, the IAC has agreed to prepare a scientific and technical intelligence estimate on USSR BW capabilities and their intentions to develop such capabilities. This would be as comprehensive and complete as our available information will allow and will be undertaken at once, scheduled for completion by March 15, 1954, and will be revised periodically as warranted by new intelligence. I am asking the Chairman of the Scientific Estimates Committee, which will prepare this estimate, to consult with your planners initially so that the terms of reference of the estimate will meet your needs as nearly as possible.

4. In addition, subsequent to the findings of the SEC, a separate estimate may be produced on Soviet capabilities and intentions to employ BW, or this subject will be treated in estimates now scheduled for production in late 1954.

5. It should be noted that, while there has been a continuing increase in our knowledge of the underlying capabilities of the USSR for research, development and production of BW agents, our knowledge of actual Soviet BW activities has not improved significantly.

ALLEN W. DULLES
DirectorTab C to
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